

ABSTRACT

PSTN and voice over packet telephony are integrated at a customer premises, thereby reducing the plurality of redundant user I/O devices on the desktop, simplifying management of multiple telephony interfaces, and interconnecting PSTN and VoP calls at the desktop. A desktop appliance interfaces to both the PSTN and a packet network and includes a single set of user I/O and user audio devices, analog telephony functionality, a digital interface, VoP telephony functionality, and a switching and bridging system for interconnecting/bridging the user devices, the PSTN, and the packet network. A desktop PC can also be incorporated with the appliance, the PC providing telephony applications and the appliance providing network connectivity for the PC. Similarly, the PC can provide network connectivity and telephony functionality, with the appliance integrating the PSTN and VoP calls.